Government of Western Australia
Department of Mines and Petroleum

Clearing Permit Decision Report

1. Application details

1.1. Permit application details

Permit application No.: 5617/2

Permit type: Purpose

1.2. Proponent details

Proponent's name: **BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd**

1.3. Property details

Property: *Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964*, Mineral Lease 244SA (AML 70/244)
Iron Ore (McCameys Monster) *Agreement Act 1972*, Mining Lease 266SA (AM 70/266)
Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/3687 (Document I 154279 L), Lease Extension K846790, Lot 19 on Deposited Plan 48921
Iron Ore (Mount Newman) Agreement Act 1964, Special Lease for Mining Operations 3116/3685, (Lease K858923), Lot 17 on Deposited Plan 241430
General Purpose Leases 52/19 – 52/274, 52/276, 52/277, 52/279
Miscellaneous Licence 47/92
Miscellaneous Licence 52/99

Local Government Area: Shire of East Pilbara

Colloquial name: Mt Whaleback Project

1.4. Application

Clearing Area (ha)	No. Trees	Method of Clearing	For the purpose of:
2,010.3		Mechanical Clearing	Mineral production, mineral exploration, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and associated activities.

1.5. Decision on application

Decision on Permit Application: Grant

Decision Date: 21 August 2014

2. Site Information

2.1. Existing environment and information

2.1.1. Description of the native vegetation under application

Vegetation Description Beard vegetation associations have been mapped for the whole of Western Australia and are useful to look at vegetation in a regional context. Two Beard vegetation associations have been mapped within the application area (GIS Database):

18: Low woodland; mulga (*Acacia aneura*); and

82: Hummock grasslands, low tree steppe; snappygum over *Triodia wiseana*.

There have been numerous flora and vegetation surveys undertaken over the Mt Whaleback and surrounding areas since 1984. Based on those surveys the following 29 vegetation associations have been identified within the application area (Onshore Environmental, 2013):

1. Low Open Forest of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia citrinoviridis* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, *Aristida inaequiglumis* and **Cenchrus ciliaris* with High Open Shrubland of *Acacia pyrifolia*, *Petalostylis labicheoides* and *Rulingia luteiflora* in brown sandy loam on tributaries of major drainage lines and adjacent floodplains;

2. Low Open Forest of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Eucalyptus xerothermica* (+*Acacia ayersiana*) over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Rhagodia eremaea* and *Psydrax latifolia* in red loamy sand on hardpan plains;

3. Low Open Forest of *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Acacia aptaneura* and *Grevillea berryana* over Open Shrubland of *Eremophila latrobei*, *Acacia sibirica* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *luerssenii* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia wiseana* in red sandy loam on valley floors and along incised drainage lines;

4. Low Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* in red brown loam on hardpan plains;

5. Low Woodland of *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Corymbia ferriticola* and *Ficus brachypoda* over

Shrubland of *Eremophila tietkensii*, *Dodonaea pachyneura* and *Acacia hamersleyensis* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* in red loamy sand in rocky gullies and small gorges;

6. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia angusta* and *Triodia wiseana* with Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* and/or *Eucalyptus socialis* subsp. *eucentrica* and Open *Shrubland* of *Acacia bivenosa* in light brown loamy sand on calcrete rises and plains;

7. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia basedowii* with High Open Shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Hakea chordophylla* and Open Shrubland of *Eremophila fraseri* and *Eremophila platycalyx* subsp. *pardalota* in red loamy sand on hill slopes;

8. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Open Mallee of *Eucalyptus trivalvis* and/or *Eucalyptus gamophylla* and Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa* and *Petalostylis labicheiodes* in red loamy sand on plains;

9. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens*, *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia brizoides* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Eremophila jucunda* subsp. *pulcherrima* and *Ptilotus obovatus* and Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* in red loamy sand on flood plains adjacent to tributaries of major drainage lines;

10. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. Van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aptaneura* and High Open Shrubland of *Acacia aptaneura*, *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* in red loamy sand on hill crests and upper hill slopes;

11. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana* and *Triodia brizoides* with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia tenuissima* in red loamy sand on lower hill slopes and plains;

12. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia pungens* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia maitlandii* and *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *luerssenii* with Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Hakea lorea* subsp. *lorea* in brown sandy loam on undulating hills;

13. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia brizoides* with High Open Shrubland *Acacia dictyophleba*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia adsurgens* in red brown sand loam on hill crests and upper hill slopes;

14. Hummock Grassland of *Triodia wiseana*, *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia brizoides* with Open Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa*, *Acacia inaequilatera* and *Acacia maitlandii* and Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* in red loamy sand on undulating hill slopes;

15. Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* with Low Open Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Acacia paraneura* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia synchronicia*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* in red loamy sand on plains;

16. Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with High Open Shrubland of *Acacia rhodophloia* and *Hakea chordophylla* and Open Shrubland of *Acacia acradenia*;

17. Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia* sp. Shovelanna Hill (S. van Leeuwen 3835) with Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* and Low Open Shrubland of *Acacia adoxa* var. *adoxa* and *Gompholobium oreophilum* in red loamy sand on hill slopes;

18. Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra* and **Cenchrus ciliaris* with Shrubland of *Acacia bivenosa, Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* and *Eremophila longifolia* and Low Open Woodland of *Acacia aptaneura* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* in brown loamy sand on levee banks of major drainage lines;

19. Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra*, **Cenchrus ciliaris* and *Eriachne tenuiculmis* with Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus victrix* or *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* subsp. *refulgens*, *Corymbia hamersleyana* and *Acacia citrinoviridis* over High Open Shrubland of *Santalum lanceolatum*, *Eremophila longifolia* and *Acacia pyrifolia* var. *pyrifolia* in brown loamy sand on incised channels of major drainage lines;

20. Open Tussock Grassland of **Cenchrus ciliaris* with High Open Shrubland of *Grevillea wickhamii*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aptaneura* in red loamy sand on rehabilitated waste dump batters;

21. Scattered Low trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over a Low Open Shrubland of *Petalostylis labicheoides Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* and *Acacia monticola* over Very Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia pungens* and Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda triandra* and *Eriachne mucronata*;

22. Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over Low Open Forest of *Acacia aneura* var. *tenuis*, *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Hibiscus sturtii* var. *campylochlamys* over Open Tussock Grassland of *Enneapogon caerulescens* and *Eriachne mucronata* with Very Open Hummock Grass of *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia pungens;*

23. Low Woodland *of* Acacia *aneura* var *?pilbarana*, *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over and Open shrubland of *Eremophila exilifolia*, *Eremophila forrestii* subsp. *forrestii*, and *Eremophila latrobei* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia pungens*;

24. Low Woodland of *Acacia pruinocarpa*, *Acacia aneura* var *?pilbarana* and *Eucalyptus gamophylla* over Low Scattered Shrubs of *Anthobolus leptomerioides* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia pungens* with Scattered Herbs of *Goodenia stobbsiana;*

25. Low Woodland of *Acacia pruinocarpa* and *Acacia aneura* var. *tenuis* over Scattered Shrubs of *Acacia inaequilatera*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Ptilotus calostachyus* over Open Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides*

with Very Open Tussock Grassland of *Themeda* sp. and *Paraneurachne muelleri*.

26. Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus xerothermica*, *Corymbia ferriticola* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over Shrubland of *Acacia aneura* var. *tenuis*, *Acacia tenuissima* and *Acacia tetragonophylla* over Open Hummock grassland of *Triodia pungens* and *Triodia angusta;*

27. Low Woodland of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia*, *Corymbia ferriticola* and *Corymbia hamersleyana* over High Open Shrubland of *Acacia catenulata* subsp. *occidentalis*, *Acacia rhodophloia* and *Acacia pruinocarpa* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides* and *Triodia pungens;*

28. Scattered Low Trees of *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Open Shrubland of *Acacia ancistrocarpa*, *Acacia bivenosa* and *Acacia dictyophleba* over Hummock Grassland of *Triodia brizoides;*

29. Low Open Woodland of *Eucalyptus gamophylla*, *Eucalyptus kingsmillii* subsp. *kingsmillii* and *Eucalyptus leucophloia* subsp. *leucophloia* over Scattered Shrubs of Acacia pruinocarpa, *Senna glutinosa* subsp. *glutinosa* and *Ptilotus obovatus* over Hummock Grasslands of *Triodia pungens*, *Triodia epactia* and *Triodia brizoides* and Very Open Tussock Grass of *Eriachne mucronata* and *Cymbopogon ambiguous*.

Clearing Description

Mt Whaleback Project.
BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (BHP Billiton) proposes to clear up to 2,010.3 hectares within an application area of approximately 8,875 hectares for the purposes of mineral production, mineral exploration, construction and maintenance of infrastructure and associated activities. The project is located in Newman within the Shire of East Pilbara.

Vegetation Condition

Excellent: Vegetation structure intact; disturbance affecting individual species, weeds non-aggressive (Keighery, 1994);

to

Completely Degraded: No longer intact; completely/almost completely without native species (Keighery, 1994).

Comment

The vegetation condition was derived from a summary of vegetation surveys undertaken over the application area prepared by Onshore Environmental (2013).

The proposed clearing is for a wide range of purposes including mineral production, mineral exploration, maintenance of infrastructure, borrow areas, laydown areas, stockpiles, tailings storage facilities, ore processing and benefaction activities (BHP Billiton, 2013). The permit area covers 13 clearing permits that were previously granted over the area. These permits were revoked on 7 August 2014.

Clearing permit CPS 5617/1 was granted by the Department of Mines and Petroleum on 31 October 2013 and authorised the clearing of 2,100 hectares within a boundary of 8,800 hectares. BHP Billiton has applied to amend the permit to increase the permit boundary to 8,875 hectares and reduce the amount of clearing authorised to 2,010.3 hectares. The permit boundary increase is to align the permit boundary with the full extent of the Orebody 35 deposit. The reduction in amount of clearing is due to some of the clearing having been conducted under the previously granted permits prior to the grant of CPS 5617/1.

3. Assessment of application against clearing principles

Comments

BHP Billiton has applied to increase the permit boundary by an additional 75 hectares and reduce the amount of clearing authorised by 89.7 hectares.

The vegetation associations within the additional area were also recorded within the original permit boundary (BHP Billiton, 2014). None of the vegetation associations are a Threatened or Prioirty Ecological Community (Onshore Environmental, 2013).

A targeted flora survey was conducted over the permit boundary in February 2014. This survey recorded the Threatened flora species *Lepidium catapycnon* and the Prioirty flora species *Calotis latiuscula* (Priority 3), *Gymnanthera cunninghamii* (Priority 3), *Eremophila magnifica* subsp. *magnifica* (Priority 4) and *Goodenia nuda* (Priority 4) (Onshore Environmental, 2014). However, these species were not reocrded within the additional area (BHP Billiton, 2014).

The additional area is comprised mostly of the Crest/Slope and Mulga Woodlands fauna habitats (BHP Billiton, 2014). The additional area also includes more of the significant Gorge/Gully habitat. The additional impacts to these fauna habitats in not likely to have a more significant impact than that of the original permit.

There are a number of additional ephemeral drainage lines within the additional area (GIS Database). The proposed amendment will not have any greater impacts upon Whaleback Creek.

The amendment is not likely to have any significant environmental impacts and the assessment of the clearing principles is consistent with the assessment in clearing permit decision report CPS 5617/1.

Methodology

BHP Billiton (2014)
Onshore Environmental (2013)
Onshore Environmental (2014)
GIS Database:

- Hydrography, linear

Planning instrument, Native Title, Previous EPA decision or other matter.

Comments

There is one native title claim (WC2005/006) over the application area (GIS Database). This claim has been registered with the National Native Title Tribunal on behalf of the claimant groups (GIS Database). However, the tenure has been granted in accordance with the future act regime of the *Native Title Act 1993* and the nature of the Act (i.e. the proposed clearing activity) has been provided for in that process, therefore, the granting of a clearing permit is not a future act under the *Native Title Act 1993*.

According to available databases, there are numerous registered Aboriginal sites of significance within the application area (GIS Database). It is the proponent's responsibility to comply with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972* and ensure that no Aboriginal sites of significance are damaged through the clearing process.

It is the proponent's responsibility to liaise with the Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Department of Water to determine whether a Works Approval, Water Licence, Bed and Banks Permit, or any other licences or approvals are required for the proposed works.

It is noted that the proposed clearing may impact on a protected matter under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (the EPBC Act). The proponent may be required to refer the project to the (Federal) Department of the Environment for environmental impact assessment under the *EPBC Act*. The proponent is advised to contact the Department of the Environment for further information regarding notification and referral responsibilities under the *EPBC Act*.

The clearing permit application was advertised on 7 July 2014 by the Department of Mines and Petroleum inviting submissions from the public. There were no submissions received**.**

Methodology

GIS Database:
- Aboriginal Sites of Significance
- Native Title Claims - Registered with the NNTT

4. References

BHP Billiton (2013) Mount Whaleback Strategic NVCP - Application to Clear Native Vegetation (Purpose) Permit Under the Environmental Protection Act 1986. Supporting documentation for clearing permit application CPS 5617/1, dated May 2013.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd (2014) Supporting information for clearing permit application CPS 5617/2.

Keighery, B.J. (1994) Bushland Plant Survey: A Guide to Plant Community Survey for the Community. Wildflower Society of WA (Inc). Nedlands, Western Australia.

Onshore Environmental (2013) Flora and Vegetation and Vertebrate Fauna Review - Mt Whaleback AML 7/244. Unpublished report for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, dated April 2013.

Onshore Environmental (2014) Mt Whaleback OB29/30/35 Targeted Flora Survey Assessment. Unpublished Report prepared for BHP Billiton Iron Ore Pty Ltd, dated May 2014.

5. Glossary

Acronyms:

BoM	Bureau of Meteorology, Australian Government
CALM	Department of Conservation and Land Management (now DEC), Western Australia
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
DEC	Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia
DEH	Department of Environment and Heritage (federal based in Canberra) previously Environment Australia
DEP	Department of Environment Protection (now DEC), Western Australia
DIA	Department of Indigenous Affairs
DLI	Department of Land Information, Western Australia
DMP	Department of Mines and Petroleum, Western Australia
DoE	Department of Environment (now DEC), Western Australia
DoIR	Department of Industry and Resources (now DMP), Western Australia
DOLA	Department of Land Administration, Western Australia
DoW	Department of Water
EP Act	Environmental Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
EPBC Act	Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Federal Act)
GIS	Geographical Information System
ha	Hectare (10,000 square metres)
IBRA	Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources – commonly known as the World Conservation Union
RIWI Act	Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914, Western Australia

s.17 Section 17 of the Environment Protection Act 1986, Western Australia
TEC Threatened Ecological Community

Definitions:

{Atkins, K (2005). *Declared rare and priority flora list for Western Australia, 22 February 2005*. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

P1 **Priority One - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations which are under threat, either due to small population size, or being on lands under immediate threat, e.g. road verges, urban areas, farmland, active mineral leases, etc., or the plants are under threat, e.g. from disease, grazing by feral animals, etc. May include taxa with threatened populations on protected lands. Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.

P2 **Priority Two - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from one or a few (generally <5) populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in urgent need of further survey.

P3 **Priority Three - Poorly Known taxa**: taxa which are known from several populations, at least some of which are not believed to be under immediate threat (i.e. not currently endangered). Such taxa are under consideration for declaration as 'rare flora', but are in need of further survey.

P4 **Priority Four – Rare taxa**: taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed and which, whilst being rare (in Australia), are not currently threatened by any identifiable factors. These taxa require monitoring every 5–10 years.

R **Declared Rare Flora – Extant taxa** *(= Threatened Flora = Endangered + Vulnerable)*: taxa which have been adequately searched for, and are deemed to be in the wild either rare, in danger of extinction, or otherwise in need of special protection, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

X **Declared Rare Flora - Presumed Extinct taxa**: taxa which have not been collected, or otherwise verified, over the past 50 years despite thorough searching, or of which all known wild populations have been destroyed more recently, and have been gazetted as such, following approval by the Minister for the Environment, after recommendation by the State's Endangered Flora Consultative Committee.

{Wildlife Conservation (Specially Protected Fauna) Notice 2005} [Wildlife Conservation Act 1950] :-

Schedule 1 **Schedule 1 – Fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct:** being fauna that is rare or likely to become extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.

Schedule 2 **Schedule 2 – Fauna that is presumed to be extinct:** being fauna that is presumed to be extinct, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.

Schedule 3 **Schedule 3 – Birds protected under an international agreement:** being birds that are subject to an agreement between the governments of Australia and Japan relating to the protection of migratory birds and birds in danger of extinction, are declared to be fauna that is need of special protection.

Schedule 4 **Schedule 4 – Other specially protected fauna:** being fauna that is declared to be fauna that is in need of special protection, otherwise than for the reasons mentioned in Schedules 1, 2 or 3.

{CALM (2005). *Priority Codes for Fauna*. Department of Conservation and Land Management, Como, Western Australia} :-

P1 **Priority One: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on threatened lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not managed for conservation, e.g. agricultural or pastoral lands, urban areas, active mineral leases. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P2 **Priority Two: Taxa with few, poorly known populations on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from one or a few localities on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation, e.g. national parks, conservation parks, nature reserves, State forest, vacant Crown land, water reserves, etc. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P3 **Priority Three: Taxa with several, poorly known populations, some on conservation lands**: Taxa which are known from few specimens or sight records from several localities, some of which are on lands not under immediate threat of habitat destruction or degradation. The taxon needs urgent survey and evaluation of conservation status before consideration can be given to declaration as threatened fauna.

P4 **Priority Four: Taxa in need of monitoring**: Taxa which are considered to have been adequately surveyed, or for which sufficient knowledge is available, and which are considered not currently threatened or in need of special protection, but could be if present circumstances change. These taxa are usually represented on conservation lands.

P5 **Priority Five: Taxa in need of monitoring**: Taxa which are not considered threatened but are subject to a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming threatened within five years.

Categories of threatened species (*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999)*

EX **Extinct:** A native species for which there is no reasonable doubt that the last member of the species has died.

EX(W) **Extinct in the wild:** A native species which:
(a) is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalised population well outside its past range; or
(b) has not been recorded in its known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate seasons, anywhere in its past range, despite exhaustive surveys over a time frame appropriate to its life cycle and form.

CR **Critically Endangered:** A native species which is facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

EN **Endangered:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered; and
(b) is facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

VU **Vulnerable:** A native species which:
(a) is not critically endangered or endangered; and
(b) is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future, as determined in accordance with the prescribed criteria.

CD **Conservation Dependent:** A native species which is the focus of a specific conservation program, the cessation of which would result in the species becoming vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered within a period of 5 years.

Principles for clearing native vegetation:

(a) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises a high level of biological diversity.

(b) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of, a significant habitat for fauna indigenous to Western Australia.

(c) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it includes, or is necessary for the continued existence of, rare flora.

(d) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it comprises the whole or a part of, or is necessary for the maintenance of a threatened ecological community.

(e) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is significant as a remnant of native vegetation in an area that has been extensively cleared.

(f) Native vegetation should not be cleared if it is growing in, or in association with, an environment associated with a watercourse or wetland.

(g) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause appreciable land degradation.

(h) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to have an impact on the environmental values of any adjacent or nearby conservation area.

(i) Native vegetation should not be cleared if the clearing of the vegetation is likely to cause deterioration in the quality of surface or underground water.

(j) Native vegetation should not be cleared if clearing the vegetation is likely to cause, or exacerbate, the incidence or intensity of flooding.